Quality and Accountability Program: Use of MDS Data

Summary: Use of MDS Data to assess SNF quality is appropriate and supported

There have been questions and concerns raised about the validity and use of MDS data for quality measures in the QA Program, but careful analysis has found that the use of MDS data is supported. Extensive efforts have been made at a national level, by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to assure that MDS data has been assessed, validated, endorsed, and is appropriate for use.

Also, initial MDS 3.0 data will not be used by the QA Program for either baseline or incentive payment issuance. This data is excluded which has allowed facilities to learn how to enter the data and allowed CMS time to address reporting issues and irregularities. MDS data will have significant time in the field prior to use by the QA Program. Additionally, CDPH has gained access to all MDS data needed to determine baseline and performance period metrics and issue incentive payments.

- MDS 3.0 has been extensively refined and improved by the CMS for assessing quality of care. [1]
- CMS has conducted analysis of MDS 3.0 data to determine validity and usability. Measures were prepared and used in the CMS Nursing Home Value-Based Purchasing Demonstration.[2]
- MDS upgraded to version 3.0 on 10/1/10 and provided instructions to facilities on reporting. [3]
- CMS contracted with RAND to conduct an extensive analysis which validated MDS 3.0 use.[4]
- Using MDS data, which is already reported by facilities to CMS, builds upon and aligns with ongoing CMS efforts and does not add new data reporting requirements on facilities. [1, 2]
- MDS measures used by the QA Program have been validated and endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) for use is assessing and measuring nursing home quality.[5]

References:

1. https://www.cms.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/10_NHQIQualityMeasures.asp
2. http://www.cms.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/downloads/NHP4P_FactSheet.pdf
3. https://www.cms.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/downloads/MDS30TransitionFromMDS20.pdf
4. http://www.cms.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/Downloads/MDS30FinalReport.pdf
5. http://www.qualityforum.org/News_And_Resources/Press_Releases/2011/NQF_Endorses_21_Measures_for_Nursing_Homes.aspx